France offer in the field of Water Management

4791. SHRI R. P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that France has recently offered to extend its expertise and technologies to India in the field of water, waste and environment management.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that similar expertise has been extended by France in related disciplines for four other research projects already in progress in Chennai and other research centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, including an evaluation of the projects being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The French Government has shown interest to provide assistance to some projects for cooperation with Indian Academic and Scientific Institutions through counter-part agencies in Water Management Sector. An Indo-French Working Group has been constituted on Urban Development in the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation for exchange of information between the officials of the two countries and to promote bilateral cooperation in the areas of (i) Waste Management; (ii) Water Management; (iii) Infrastructure Development; (iv) Natural Disaster Mitigation; and (v) Urban Transport. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on 24th-25th April, 2003. Presently, two projects namely, (i) Sewage Infrastructures for city of Imphal and (ii) Digital Mapping Information System for Bangalore Metropolitan area at an estimated cost of Euro 8.735 and 4.560 million respectively are under implementation in the country.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. An Indo-French Unit for Water and Waste Technologies has been established at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi on 27-2-2002 for which an Agreement was reached with French side on 9-3-2000. This facility shall be used to train field engineers working in Government industries and the NGOs as well as to train University teachers and facilitate advanced technology transfer in the field of water and waste.

Under the framework of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Institute of Research

and Development (IRD), Paris, a Joint Laboratory namely "Indo-French Cell for Water Sciences" has been established and two joint projects has been taken up.

Another MoU between National Geo-Physical Research Institute, Hyderabad and French Government for setting up the Indo-French Centre for ground water research has also been signed on 20th November, 1999. The Centre is focused on conceiving and validating tools and methodology for optimal management of ground water resources in weathered hard rock acquifers.

An Indo-French Cell on Bio-processes for the Environment (IFCBE) has also been created on 8th November, 2002 at Anna University, Chennai with French assistance to focus on industrial waste water treatment, recycle and reuse.

Rehabilitation of displaced persons in M.P., Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra

†4792. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the names of main dams of the country under construction and expenditure incurred on rehabilitation of the people displaced;

(b) the number of people displaced or being displaced due to construction of such dams alongwith the number of such displaced people of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra; and

(c) the steps taken for rehabilitation of people affected due to such construction and number of people rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) Irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, investigation, funding along with priority, execution, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects primarily rests with the concerned State Governments themselves. As per the available information (April, 2002) there are 330 large dams (height more than 15 metres) under construction in various States. The State-wise distribution of number of dams is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). As construction of dams and resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected families are done by the concerned State Governments, the Ministry of Water Resources is not maintaining the data on number of people affected and expenditure incurred on resettlement and rehabilitation of the affected families.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.